



For Immediate Release

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Talbot County Roads Maintenance

Throughout the summer and late fall (weather permitting), the Talbot County Roads Department will be tarring and chipping various County-maintained roads throughout the county. The process of tarring and chipping requires that several layers of the tar and chip be applied at different intervals. Some roads will require milling, patching, wedging and leveling with asphalt as needed prior to tarring and chipping. While the work on several roads has been completed, work on various other roads, including Chapel Road, Black Dog Alley, Dover Neck Road, Goldsborough Neck Road, Miles River Road, Thorneton Road and Pea Neck Road is on-going.

Several years ago, the existing tar and chip on many County roads was covered with a slurry seal product which mimics the appearance of blacktop, but does not perform as well as blacktop. Due to revenue constraints, Talbot County does not have sufficient funding to apply blacktop to its roads.

In 2010, the State of Maryland reduced the portion of Highway User Revenues received by all counties and municipalities in the state. Talbot County went from receiving approximately \$3 million a year in Highway User Revenues prior to FY2010 to receiving just \$283,989 in FY2010, a decrease of 89.7%. Although the State has gradually restored a small percentage of the Highway User Revenues to the counties and municipalities, the amount received by Talbot County in FY2019 was only \$650,000. Since roads are a necessary component to a safe community, the County has, for the past 11 fiscal years, had to find the funding to support this vital department to keep County roadways safe and passable 365 days a year. County support has increased from \$114,690 in FY2009 to \$2.82 Million in FY2019.

As the roadwork continues there will be lane closures and delays. Drivers are requested to proceed slowly while work is on-going for the safety of our Roads crews and the public. Once the resurfacing work has been completed, please obey the law and continue to drive slowly so that the roads have a chance to "cure." Not doing so will result in damage to the roadways and additional costs for all taxpayers.